



**727 West Main Street
Louisville, Kentucky 40202**

October 20, 2006

Chairman Kevin Martin
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Support BellSouth / AT&T Merger, WC Docket No. 06-74

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to urge you to approve the merger of AT&T and BellSouth. As director of a private-not-for-profit museum that encourages the public's interest in science and technology, I believe that it will deliver new and innovative broadband technologies to improve Kentucky's and our nation's educational capabilities.

As providers of science and technology programs to students and teachers, we know that they are already learning how technology can open new doors. Yet, we have barely begun to scratch the surface of the innovations that communications technology can make available to educators. The merger of AT&T and BellSouth will provide powerful tools for the latest communications technology to become accessible to many more students and teachers, as well as to those of us in the informal education sector.

Parents play an important role in their children's education. Thus, we are pleased that AT&T and BellSouth have proposed post-merger commitments to bring *affordable* and *universal* broadband coverage to Kentucky's parents and students, including:

- A \$10 monthly residential broadband Internet service offering

- A pledge to make available broadband Internet access to *all* residential living units in the AT&T/BellSouth footprint, including rural America and lower income housing units.

This broadband commitment will greatly help U.S. meet the challenges of creating a technologically literate workforce for the 21st century by:

- Speeding the deployment of exciting new broadband-based technologies and other promising innovations to our nation's schools and libraries and to students' homes.
- Providing new economic growth and jobs for our young people.
- Enhancing *distance learning* capabilities, such as offering students greater access to advanced placement and other classes, providing new educational tools for students and others with disabilities, and providing new cost-effective learning tools that will enhance America's global competitiveness.

Given the positive impact these commitments will bring to our educational system and to the next generation, I urge you to approve the AT&T/BellSouth merger.

Sincerely,

Gail R. Becker
Executive Director
Louisville Science Center

cc: Marlene Dortch, Commission Secretary